THE GIANT OF THE CENTURIES

Justice Brewer's Idea of the United States.

A MODERN HERCULES CLUB.

In Address to the People's Forum on the Larger and Higher Life of the Nation, He Refers to the Tremendous Growth of the Country in National Wealth and to Some of the Dangers.

New York (Special)—Justice David J. Brewer, of the United States Supreme Court, spoke Sunday at the session of the People's Forum, in New Rochelle, upon "The Larger and Higher Life of the Nation." The Justice dwelt upon the general scope of national tendencies in the political and moral life of the American people. He found some things to criticise and expressed an optimistic view of the future.

Mr. Edward M. Shepard presided and introduced the Justice, who read his speech from manuscript. He said in part:

"The United States is the marvel of the ages, it is the giant of the centuries. Not merely in its population, but by its wealth, culture and achievements. This country has astonished the whole world. Three centuries ago, its republic was born out of nothing. Since the time when, isolated from Europe and dependent upon its own resources the nation began to work its own destiny, the progress of the American people has been by geometrical rather than arithmetical progression."

The Justice then dwelt at some length upon the material welfare of the country. The Pennsylvania Railroad and Standard Oil Company he referred to as the best examples of the growth that has been attained by corporations in America.

"Think of the Standard Oil Company," said he, "that corporation whose assets are so great that they cannot be disclosed." Laughter greeted this sally of the speaker.

Kansas as an Example.

"I know of no better illustration of the phenomenal growth that everywhere characterizes the history of our national life," continued the Justice, "than that afforded by the State of Kansas. When I studied geography there was no such name on the maps of our domain. When I first went to the territory there was not a line of railroad in it, and the people used to gather to see the pony express dash by with its packet of mail for the people farther West.

"Today there are 1,500,000 people in the borders of that state, and its grain crop last year was large enough to supply 20 bushels to every family in the United States.

"That is an example of our business in this land of ours. Do I err when I say that pride in the bigness of things is one of the chief American characteristics? Pride in the bigness and fullness of plenty? Do we not point out the longest car of corn, the tallest building? Do we not hail the mother of triplets?

"We stand out among the nations like a Hercules. If we don't have a Hercules club, we at least possess a big stick in Washington." [Laughter.]

The speaker said that he thought that danger lay in national tendency to worship mere bigness and the glory of strength.

"Those responsible for all the greatness of this country must answer further questions before our value to the world and before the world can be determined. The real question is: 'Which way is the country looking?' What are the ideals and the inspirations of this nation? Is this republic seeking only material development, ostentation and parade, or is it striving for the higher life, which shall benefit both the nation and the people?

"We are building up a big navy; we are now the fourth naval power. In all our cities we vie in ostentation. We buy libraries by the cubic yard and galleries by the job lot. We want to have the biggest and fastest yachts, the most gorgeous private castles. What does this all mean?

Getting Extravagant.

Justice Brewer answered the question by pointing out what he believed to be the growth of extravagance, in the individual, the municipality and the nation. More than half of the states are in debt collectively, he said. New York City owes $421,000,000. The nation is running deeper into debt each year.

THEY DIED TOGETHER.

Bullet Wounds Point To A Murder And Suicide.

Boston, Mass. (Special)—A double tragedy in the South End was disclosed when the body of Margret Clark, 40 years old, was found in bed in a lodging house on Dover Street, with a revolver clutched in her right hand, a bullet hole behind her right ear, while beside her lay a man known by the name of Atwood, 40 years, said to have been her husband, dying from a bullet wound in the forehead.

Atwood died at a hospital without recovering consciousness.

The Clark woman had told some of the lodgers that she had sent for Atwood, who was in Dayton. He arrived a week ago and the two had been living together ever since.

The Differences Adjusted.

San Juan, Porto Rico (Special)—The differences between the federal and the insular government over the division of the public lands in Porto Rico have been amicably adjusted, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Navy. Capt. Samuel C. Lemly, U. S. N., retired, who represented the Navy in the adjustment, sailed for New York December 12 on board the steamer Philadelphia.

Fishing Vessels Frozen Up.

St. Johns, N. F. (Special).—The British cruiser Brilliant, which arrived here from Bay of Islands, reports everything quiet on the herring fisheries. The captain of the steamer Active has been fined $400, with an alternative sentence of six months' imprisonment, for conveying colonists beyond the marine boundary to join American vessels. The latest telegrams report a heavy frost at Bay of Islands, and say that 5,000 nets are frozen in the ice among the inlets.

THE NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Domestic.

In an address before the Civic Federation Andrew Carnegie said he believed the major portion of the estates of very rich men should go to the state upon their death, but he opposed a graduated income tax. Melville Ingalls, the noted railroad man, came out for an income tax.

In granting a rehearing on the matter of a postoffice site in Pittsburg Secretary of the Treasury Shaw denies that he snapped his fingers in the face of President English, of the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce.

Rev. C. S. Quinn, a former priest in charge of a Catholic Church, at Atlantic Highland, N. J., and Molly B. Riley, his housekeeper, were found dead in a furnished-room house in New York.

Arguments on the demurrers of the railways and grain firms charged by indictment with giving and receiving rebates, were begun in the United States Court at Minneapolis.

Reclassification was made of a 10 per cent. increase in the wages of all employees of the transportation department of the Lackawanna.

Jesse C. Rumsey, the boy train robber, was sentenced in Marshall, Mo., to 20 years in the penitentiary.

Clifford Hoss, the Hartle exchangeman, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment in Pittsburg for perjury.

Frank Massa, a wealthy Italian of New York, was shot and killed, it is believed, by Black Hand.

Because of the conviction of George Burnham, Jr., ex-president of the Mutual Reserve Company, for grand larceny, bail for President Burnham and Vice President George W. Richardson, both of the Mutual, who were jointly indicted with George Burnham, was raised from $12,500 to $20,000 and Vice President Eldredge's bail from $12,500 to $15,000.

President Paul Morton, of the Equitable Life has declined a meeting of the presidents of 30 life insurance companies to form a national organization to look after the interests of the corporations and policyholders.

The publisher, the editor and the sporting writer of the New York Morning Telegraph have been arrested, charged with contempt of court in publishing alleged false statements of the Ulster trial.

Clarence Collier, an orphan boy of Pittsburg, has been sleeping in sheds and alleys since his mother died four months ago.

Frank Mumford, a Middletown (N. Y.) shoe dealer, has been sent to jail for 60 days for stealing a kiss from a customer.

Harry C. Sutton, a Pittsburg merchant, who nearly ran over a mother and child, died of nervous shock.

Judge Lanhorn, of a United States court in Wisconsin, upholds the right of labor to strike.

The banks of Chicago are enjoying the greatest prosperity in their history.

The Great Northern Railroad will issue $60,000,000 of new stock at par.

The business section of Wareham, Mass., was destroyed by fire.

Chester E. Gillette was sentenced to be electrocuted at Auburn Prison in the week beginning January 13. He will be taken to Auburn within the next ten days. A motion for a new trial was denied.

Michael F. Bruno, a Greek seaman on the tug Walter A. Luckenbach, rescued the captain, frozen to the masthead, and a seaman, frozen to a hatch adrift, of the sea-going bark Buena Jenkins.

President Baer, of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, has declined to grant the demands of the engineers, firemen and conductors, who threaten a strike.

Foreign.

Fifty French seminaries which refused to comply with the associations laws are being closed. A number of applications for permission to hold religious meetings were made by parishoners. Many suits have been brought in connection with ejectments for masses for the dead.

The London female suffragists made another attempt to hold a meeting within the precincts of the House of Commons. They fought desperately and kicked and scratched the officers.

Emperor William dissolved the Reichstag and ordered new elections in consequence of the government's defeat on the bill providing for sending more troops to Africa.

It was denied in the House of Commons by the government that the War Office had contracted with Chicago firms over 10,000,000 pounds of corned beef.

The British Foreign Secretary declined to announce in Parliament what action, if any, the government would take on the Congo question.

The Russian government has bought six million bushels of grain in Western Siberia for the famine-stricken peasants.

Edouard Muller, vice president of the Swiss Federal Council, was elected president of the Swiss Federation.

Great Britain, France and Italy have signed an arrangement for the maintenance of the integrity of Abyssinia.

In the recent revolutionary fight near the River Acoques, in Ecuador, 12 men were killed and 18 wounded.

James Bryce is likely to be appointed British ambassador to the United States.

The conditions of the Shah of Persia has taken a turn for the worse.

An antiexertion rising has broken out in Kurdistan, and a force commanded by the Shah's third son has been defeated by the rebellious tribesmen.

A band of robbers held up the officials and cleaned out the Petersburg International Bank in Odessa, carrying off $14,500.

Edith Evelyn Bigelow, daughter of Poultney Bigelow, was quietly married in London to James F. A. Clark, a Boston banker.

King Oscar of Sweden is critically ill with heart trouble.

Russian newspapers are advocating a Russo-American rapprochement by discouraging Japanese aggression.

A court martial in Yekaterinoslav imposed the death sentence on eight leaders of the armed uprising of December last.

The report of the d-feat of the rebels in Ecuador by the government troops has been confirmed.

European buyers are co-operating for a change in the contracts for American grain.

France has sent word that Henry White is persona grata to the government.

SAYS IT'S WAR AGAINST THE CHURCH

A Statement From the Pope On the Trouble.

NOT A RELIGIOUS LIBERTY LAW.

Declaration From the Vatican Says the Concordat Has Not Yet Been Denounced by French Government—The Holy See Not Opposed to the Making of Applications.

THE VATICAN'S SIDE.

The Pope says the Concordat has not yet been denounced by the French government.

The joy of the Masonic Societies shows that the war is against the church and religion.

France has no law granting religious liberty to those not complying with the laws providing for separation of church and State.

A real law providing for real liberty instead of arbitrary ministerial circulars is needed.

There is no truth in the statement that the French Episcopacy and clergy are ready to make applications or hold religious meetings.

The Holy See is not opposed to the making of applications under the new law, but takes exception to the whole spirit of the Briand circular.

Rome (By Cable).—The Pope and the papal secretary, Cardinal Merry del Val, have refused all requests to grant an interview for publication on the Franco-Vatican situation, but the following statement is authorized by the Vatican:

"The situation may be summarized as follows:

"The concordat, the most solemn bilateral contract, has not yet been denounced by the French Government, which wishes to establish a new legal standing for the church in France. The government did not agree with the Holy See on this subject and repeatedly and openly showed hostility toward the head of the church. Violence may prevail for a time, but those who are suffering from the state of oppression preserve all their rights and all their claims. The explosion of joy among the Masonic and demagogic societies as a result of the persecution on the part of the government shows that the war is against the church and religion.

"Notwithstanding the bills passed and regulations adopted, France at the present time has no law granting religious liberty to those who do not comply with the law providing for the separation of church and State.

"The one good point in the circular issued recently by the French minister of public worship, M. Briand, is his confession that it is impossible to apply to cultural associations the law of 1881 and 1901, which were adopted for the regulation of other kinds of associations meetings. Therefore, what is needed is a real law providing for real liberty, instead of arbitrary ministerial circulars. The loyalty and good will of the Holy See under similar circumstances was shown in Brazil. There there was a monarchy and a concordat, both of which the Republicans suppressed and proclaimed their separation from the Holy See, under certain reserves. Later the Brazilian Republic came to an understanding with the Vatican, and a papal nuncio was accredited to Rio Janeiro, while a Brazilian minister was accredited to the Vatican.

"The search of the nunciature at Paris and the expulsion from France of Mgr. Montagnini, secretary of the nunciature, were steps taken with the object of making the world believe the false statements circulated in Paris and which could only have originated in the discovery of documents seized at the nunciature, such as the report that one of the French episcopacy and clergy were ready to make applications to hold religious meetings. There is no truth in the statement. The Holy See is not opposed to the making of applications under the law, but takes exception to the whole spirit of the circular issued by Minister of Public Worship Briand."

Official Returns In New York.

New York (Special).—Complete and official returns of the vote cast for state officers in every county in New York State in the recent state election shows that the entire Democratic state ticket, except its candidate for governor, was elected by. Charles E. Hughes, Republican candidate for governor, was elected by a majority of 57,722. The majorities for the Democratic candidates for the state offices below that of governor ranged from 5,442 for Chanler to 14,250 for Martin H. Glynn, the Democratic candidate for comptroller.

God And Constitution.

Guthrie, Ok. (Special).—The Constitutional Convention had a heated discussion as to whether the preamble Being should be designated as "the Supreme Ruler of the Universe" or "God Almighty." Petitions from different religious sects and one from atheists were presented asking that there be no religious discrimination in the language of the constitution.

Mother To Spend $500,000.

Pittsburg, Pa. (Special).—Half a million dollars is the amount which Mrs. William Thaw expects to spend to clear her son, Harry Kendall Thaw, of the charge of murdering Stanford White, according to a statement which she is said to have made to an intimate friend during her recent visit to this city, leaving the course of a long talk with this friends, Mrs. Thaw said that she estimated that the counsel fees would amount to $250,000, and that counsel to $75,000 would be spent here in Pittsburg

Shot Japanese Servant.

Washington (Special).—The Navy Department has been informed by cable that on December 3 Private Culp, of the Marine Guard on the Midway Islands, while duck hunting accidentally fired a bullet into the Commercial Cable Company's building, wounding a Japanese mess servant, Yoka Dayashi, in the leg. The bullet shattered the bones. The shooting was purely accidental, as Culp was 1,500 yards from the building when he fired, the bullet striking the water and ricocheting into the building, which was out of sight of Culp.

AT THE NATION'S CAPITAL

Some Interesting Happenings Briefly Told.

Testimony was given the House Committee on Agriculture by editors of farm journals to show that the American press has not been influenced by pecuniary inducements to take up the fight against the gobernment's food laws.

The report of the commission which has been engaged for a number of years in a codification and revision of the general statues of the United States was submitted to President Roosevelt.

The House Committee on Banking and Currency heard Joseph T. Talbott, of Chicago, and J. C. Walruff, of Pittsburg, on the elastic currency proposition.

The Secretary of War has called upon the governor of the Philippines for a report on the death of 10 inmates of the Billibid prison from plague serum.

Transatlantic steamship men denied the Interstate Commerce Commission's jurisdiction to interfere with rates beyond the water's edge.

The Indian Appropriation Bill for 1908, carrying about $6,000,000, was agreed upon by the House Committee on Indian Affairs.

The Senate passed a bill adopting the regulations agreed on by the International Maritime Congress to prevent collisions at sea.

The House Committee of the whole voted for the retention of the entire board of pension appeals of the Interior Department.

President Roosevelt, by an executive order, has revoked the order permitting enlisted men in the Navy to purchase a discharge.

Congress received from Secretary Bonaparte the draft of the plans for the battleship provided for in the last session.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has begun the investigation of competition in transatlantic traffic.

Prof. Henry P. Osborn declined the position of secretary of the Smithsonian Institute.

The Senate confirmed nominations of William M. Moody to be associate justice of the Supreme Court; Charles J. Bonaparte, to be Attorney General; Victor H. Metcalf, to be Secretary of the Navy, and Oscar S. Straus, to be Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

President Roosevelt is said to have in contemplation a message to Congress asking for such legislation as will secure the enforcement of Interstate Commission jurisdiction over the discrimination of express companies.

In the Senate Mr. Rayner, of Maryland, made a speech in which he assailed the position of President Roosevelt in reference to the admission of Japanese into California schools.

The urgent need of more drydock facilities is emphasized by Rear Admiral Capps, chief of the Bureau of Construction and Repair, Navy Department, in his annual report.

Thomas Lee Woolwine, for many years secretary to Senator Morgan, has been appointed assistant attorney general for the Department of Justice.

THE RELATIONS ARE STRAINED

Russian and Japanese Diplomats At Odds.

NAVIGATION ON THE AMUR RIVER.

The Good Faith of Russia Regarding the Institution of the "Open Door" Question by the Japanese — Russian Officials Say Japan Is Taking Advantage of Russia's Weakness.

St. Petersburg (By Cable).—The relations of the Russian and Japanese diplomats who are negotiating the treaty of commerce between their respective countries have been seriously strained by the publication, an act obviously inspired from Nagasaki, of a dispatch reflecting upon the good faith of Russia regarding the institution of the "open door," and insinuating that she is evading the stipulations of the Portsmouth treaty in the matter of getting her troops out of Manchuria.

This Japanese statement is characterized here as a tissue of inexactitudes, designed to influence the public opinion of the world, while Japan is taking advantage of Russia's weakness to obtain profit never contemplated by the treaty of Portsmouth. Particular indignation is manifested here over the effect that these Japanese insinuations with regard to the "open door" may have upon the commercial treaty.

As an evidence of Russia's sincere adherence to that principle, it is explained that she is even contemplating opening to international navigation the Amur and Sungari Rivers. The navigation of these rivers was reserved by the treaty of Aigun of 1858 to Russia and China jointly, but Russia insists that Japan, now under no construction of the Portsmouth treaty, which neither mentions nor implies navigation privileges, demand this as a right.

Japan bases her pretentions to the navigation of the Amur and its affluents on the argument that the treaty of Aigun was abrogated entirely by the treaty of Portsmouth and the China-Japanese treaty of 1905, by which all agreements infringing upon the sovereignty of China were nullified and Manchuria opened to international trade. Russia contends that the arrangement for the joint navigation of these rivers does not infringe upon the sovereignty of China, and does not prevent the entrance of foreign goods into Manchuria.

With regard to the evacuation of Manchuria, it is maintained here that Japan and not Russia is the real culprit. The Japanese force now in Manchuria is nearly double that of Russia, and in view of the spirit shown by Japan in these negotiations, the presence of this body of men is a source of serious anxiety to the Russian government.

FOUGHT TYPHOON AT SEA.

Crew Of Vessel Exhausted In Twice Fighting For Life.

Boston (Special).—The British freight steamer St. George, commanded by Capt. H. H. Sadler, arrived at this port after it had escaped destruction by a typhoon, and later by fire, which broke out in the cargo of hemp.

The St. George left New York on June 7 for Japan, laden with steel for the Japanese government. Since that time she had traveled 24,000 miles and for the past 78 days she has been steaming almost continuously.

While the freighter was on her way from Kobe, Japan, to Cuba, a typhoon chased the vessel. It was the same disturbance that devastated the port of Hongkong. For a time it looked as if the vessel would be unable to escape, but just as the crew had abandoned hope the plucky freighter steamed out of the grasp of the typhoon, which was shooting great columns skyward.

The St. George then proceeded to Manila, from watch port she sailed on October 4 with a cargo of hemp. Sailing from Algiers on November 21 the steamer was out less than 24 hours when a brisk fire was discovered in No. 3 hold. Steam was injected into the compartment and the vessel headed for Gibraltar. Just when it was believed the fire was subdued, flames broke out anew and were not extinguished until several hours after the steamer had reached Gibraltar.

Jailed For Peonage.

Pensacola, Fla. (Special).—W. L. Harlan, manager of the Jackson Lumber Company, was fined $5,000 and sentenced to 18 months in the penitentiary on the charge of "conspiracy to commit peonage." Five other attaches of the same company, convicted of the same offense, were fined $100 each and sent to the federal prison for 13 months. Appeals will be taken.

Gen. Nogi Injured.

Tokio (By Cable).—General Nogi, the Japanese commander who captured Port Arthur, was thrown from his horse while returning home from the palace. He fell on his head and became unconscious. He was removed to his home, where he revived under medical treatment, and is believed to be out of danger.

Valise Full Of Jewelry.

Omaha, Neb. (Special). — Three men entered the pawnshop of Joseph Sonnenberg, at 1305 Douglas Street, bound and gagged the proprietor, his clerk, and a customer; filled a suit case with jewelry worth $8,000 and escaped. One of the men, who is known by his name as Edward Elliott, of Denver, was captured by the police. Part of the jewelry was recovered.

Explosion In Mine.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa. (Special).—The explosion within a week occurred in the Buttonwood mine, near here, four men being seriously burned. The accident happened in the Hillman vein, operated by the Parrish Coal Company, through a heavy fall of coal, which changed the air course, and this permitted a volume of gas to gather in this portion of the mine. The gas was ignited by coming in contact with a naked lamp on the cap of one of the miners. Assistant Mine Foreman Thomas Morgan was badly burned on the hands and face.

Killed His Wife.

Wilmington, Del. (Special).—Mrs. Catarina Uzzo died as a result of a bullet shot by her husband in their bedroom. In her dying deposition she said she saw her husband with a revolver, and when she asked him what he intended to do, the revolver went off. Mrs. Uzzo would have become a mother in a few weeks. Her husband, Michael Uzzo, who fled to Jersey City and was arrested there, was returned to Wilmington.

IN THE GOOD OLD WAY

Congress Won't Have New-Fangled Spelling Ideas.

Washington (Special)—The House of Representatives Wednesday went on record in opposition to the new spelling of certain items reported by the Appropriations Committee in the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation Bill, which read as follows:

"No money appropriated in this act shall be used in connection with printing documents authorized by law or ordered by Congress, or either branch thereof, unless the same shall conform to the orthography recognized and used by generally accepted dictionaries of the English language."

For hours the debate on simplified spelling held the attention of the House, and a score or more members took part in the discussion.

Representative Crumpacker, of Indiana, made a point of order against the last paragraph in the bill which provided that public documents should be spelled as Webster's or other generally accepted dictionaries spells them. An amendment was held to change existing law, and all action thereon was suspended. Representative Bingham, of Pennsylvania, in charge of the bill, then offered an amendment quoted, which was adopted.

During the discussion Mr. Sullivan, of Massachusetts, remarked that if the President, in "Webster's Blake" could change the spelling of 300 words of the English language he would have the authority to change 30,000 words, or every word in the language. If that were done he thought a new court language might be required by the time it appeared for the new American empire.

"We are getting very well with the English language until the reign of the present President of the United States," said Mr. Sullivan.

Offensive To The Eye.

Representative Tawney, of Iowa, thought the paragraph as originally reported should remain in the bill. He said the new words were offensive to the eye, but "preference or constant association we might get used to them."

To put them by executive order into the laws of the land before they have reached literature," remarked Mr. Lacey, "is getting the thing from the end foremost. Literature comes first, orthography afterward. Let this Congress put this declaration into law; it is not enacting anything. It is simply protesting against interference with established customs as it has been followed for more than 100 years."

Mr. Crumpacker, of Indiana, said the House was not responsible for an order of the executive on the subject of simplified spelling. He was of the opinion that legislation would retard progress and reform in spelling.

Mr. Lacey asked Mr. Crumpacker if he thought the printer to whom would have the discretion to spell the word "Cremation" with a "K" and Mr. Crumpacker replied that he thought he would.

Representative Grosvenor, of Ohio, wanted to know what existing law that the paragraph changed. He insisted that there was no law as to spelling, except as the government accepted way. The effort to define how words should be spelled, he said, was absolutely germane to the bill.

Mr. Tawney remarked that if the simplified spelling should go into effect it would result in the reprinting of all the schoolbooks and dictionaries, to say nothing of the cost it would put upon the government to make the change.

Knockout For New Spelling.

Washington (Special).—President Roosevelt will withdraw his simplified spelling order and the public printer, and hereafter all documents from the executive departments will again be printed in the old-fashioned style.

Representative Landis, of the joint committee on printing, had a conference with the President, when the latter declared that he did not wish to have spelling overshadow matters of great importance and expressed a willingness to recede from the order. The new spelling in case the House of Representatives concurred in the record as opposed to the system. Accordingly, Mr. Landis introduced the following resolution in the House:

"Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that hereafter in printing reports, documents or other publications authorized by law, ordered by Congress or either branch thereof, or emanating from the executive departments, their bureaus or branches, and independent offices of the government, the Government Printing Office should observe and adhere to the standard of orthography prescribed in general use by dictionaries of the English language."

Taught Carnegie.

Washington (Special). — John Howard Larcombe, 86 years old, a veteran employe of the Pension Office and the man who taught Andrew Carnegie arithmetic in a little village, Md., near this city. When he retired from office some months ago Mr. Carnegie gave him a pension of $100 a month for life.

Raising Tea In South Carolina.

Charleston, S. C. (Special).—Marketing was begun of the first crop of American tea grown on a commercial scale. Twelve thousand pounds have been raised on a plantation in Colleton County, a few miles from Charleston. For several years tea has been marketed from Pinehurst, the government experimental garden at Summerville, but the product marketed today is the first of a purely commercial crop. It is expected the next year promises to be very large.

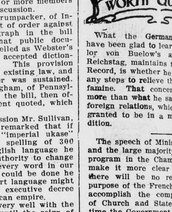
LONDON DIRECTORY.

STATED COMMUNICATION of Andersonville Lodge, No. 292, A. F. & A. M., this (Saturday) evening, at Farmville, Va., TUESDAY on or before the full moon in each month, at 7 o'clock P. M. All Master Masons are cordially invited.

L. B. BEDDOW, W. M.
J. LEE COLEMAN, Secretary.

J. H. Robertson,
SURVEYOR & ENGINEER
Wilp P. O.
Buckingham County
Phone No. 174.

Refer to Hon. T. S. Martin, Senator, Charlottesville, Va.; Hon. John Lamb, Congressman, Richmond, Va.; Hon. Joseph Wingfield, Va.; Hon. Geo. Peery, Farmville, Va.; Prof. W. A. Scott, Richmond, Va.; L. H. Clement, West Appomattox, Va.



THEIR jolly, pobblehaired, roistering old Santa Claus is in hot water. Preachers and parents are rising up against him, declaring that he is a fraud and a humbug and ought to be passed. Thank heaven, a sporadic plan like this can have no ill results. Recalcitrant parents and preachers will pass away. Santa Claus will endure until the end, as he endured from the beginning.

Who can say how old he is or at what period he made his first appearance among prehistoric men. The Santa Claus, by which he is known in America, is the Dutch pet of St. Nicholas. The name Santa Claus, by which he is known in England, is a corruption of Christ Kindlein, the Christ child. But the ideas that distinguish Christmas and long before Christianity, and of the days when every species of gift was a most untoward "sclosure," were always associated with it. Even among the Romans, the Saturnalia of the days of the old Norsemen and of the sons of the Druids celebrated the coming of the winter solstice. People then themselves up to all sorts of fun and frolics. In the Dionysia representative figure was not the Dionysus or Bacchus, but the cheery and disrespectable Silenus, chief of the Satyrs, or the god of revelry. In the Saturnalia it was a lord of misrule. In the Germanic feasts it was a jolly, long bearded and white god like Silenus.

Later, although the central figure of Christmas festival is the child God Christ Kindlein, the influence of the old customs was too strong to be thrown off, and even the Puritan administration. Throughout Germany there is a belief that Christ brings gifts, which appears to be a survival of the old pagan religious and partly political festivals. Representative of the old celebration of Mohammedans, reported every province, and in every village, Viceroy of Bacchus, with the fantastic and grotesque costumes of the Saturnalia, and especially their claim to the superstition of their ancestors, appear in any modified degree in the presentation of Santa Claus. Saturn was unconsciously to St. Nicholas, the name of the bishop who was famous for his power, and who, as the patron of children, is especially fitted to be the patron of the festival that has come to be looked upon as especially that of the young. St. Nicholas did not supersede the old, but accompanied Him in his Christmas travels, as, indeed, he does in certain rural neighborhoods to this day, where the modern has been least felt.

Santa Claus, according to the hagiology, was a bishop of Myra, who lived early in the fourth century, and is the patron of children and boys.

It is strange that everywhere St. Nicholas is honored and loved, also most observed the most distressed among the community. People know little of the legend of the bishop. He is treated with that air of nonchalance with which familiarity becomes a dying myth. One sees him in the morning, and he prays to him in the morning, and he fulfils a duty without spoiling it. There are even the mumming processions of SAINTA CLAUS, Northern Germany and Austria, a possessing the necessary religious knowledge is masked, dressed in white vestments, with a silk cowl furnished with a miter and staff. He is accompanied by two and a whole troop of devils. The devils are dressed much like the boys in Anglican or Catholic choirs. Each carries a basket. The blacken their faces and add horns of pigs' snouts or such other fantastic devices as the ingenuity of boyhood can devise. They are girt with chains, which they shake or rattle furiously. It is thought much better fun to be a devil than an angel, and the competition for the former is only limited to the number of boys who are able to command the necessary regalia. In the twilight of the evening of December 5 the good bishop and his satellites begin their round of visits. It is the season for juvenile parties, and almost all the children of the village are collected in a few separate houses, each of which St. Nicholas visits in turn. He enters with the Garman of his wrath, and they followers are left to play their pranks outside. A great silence falls upon the children, and one by one Carmagnole and they are examined by the saint. This part of the evening's performance is the most solemn and earnest seriousness and decorum. Simple religious questions suited to the age of each child are propounded, after which it has to sing hymns and recite prayers. If the ordeal is successfully passed the angels present it with nuts and apples. If it fails it has to stand aside. When the examination is ended the devils are called in.

They are not allowed to approach the good children, but may tease and frighten the naughty ones as much as they like, they do not get at first a matter of duty. Duty is followed by the pleasures whose anticipation had been the bane of the entire evening, which consist in pursuing the largest girls with the attempt to blacken their faces. Their whole appearance is intended to be grotesque and farcical. For the entire evening they are allowed full license in the villages, though in some of the towns the festival has for good reasons, been prohibited. For weeks before the eve of St. Nicholas a devil may occasionally be seen at the window of some cottage where the children are supposed to be naughty or their elder sister is known to be particularly attractive. It is proof of the sound nerves of the children that so many survive the ordeal.

When St. Nicholas has left the children return to their own homes, but they do not believe that the generosity of the saintly bishop has been exhausted. After saying their prayers and going to bed they place dishes or baskets upon windowsill, with their names written within them, and in these their parents deposit small presents, which their little sons and daughters fancy he has brought.

In many places the bugbear over shadows its importance both the Christ child and St. Nicholas. He appears under different names and in different guises. In Lower Austria he is the frightful Krampus, with his clanking chains and horrible devil's mask, who, notwithstanding his gilded nuts and apples, gingerbread and toys, which he carries in his basket, is the terror of the nursery. In Hanover, Holstein and Mecklenburg he is known as Hans Trapp. Styria he is Joseph.

Sometimes the bugbear was a female. In Lower Austria she was called the Budelfrau. In Suabia it was the Berchtel who chastised children if they did not spin diligently with rods but rewarded the industrious with dried pears, apples and nuts.

The female bogie survives, especially in Russia and Italy. In the former place she is known as the Baboushka, in the latter as the Befana. Befana is a corruption of Epiphania or Epiphany. For it is on Epiphany, Jan. 6, that the Italians make presents to their children in commemoration of the gifts given by the three wise men to Christ on that day. [New York Herald.

A Surprise For Father Christmas.

"Dear me, how very strange this is!;
So Father Christmas said,
"Whose can these small red stockings be,
This very curious size?

"While travelling round the world
I've seen
Of stockings, many a score,
But never, ever, ever have found
Such tiny ones before."

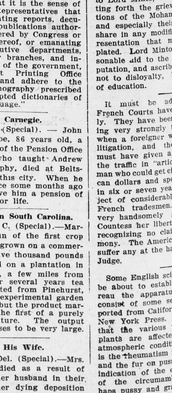
Gladys was tucked up fast asleep;
Her doll, too, was in bed;
But Dolly's eyes were open wide,
And she heard what he said.

She sat right up and called (dolls talk
On Christmas night you see)—
"They are mine, those stockings;
Gladys
Has hung them there for me!"

God Rest You, Merry Gentlemen!
(Old English Carol.)

God rest you, merry gentlemen!
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we are gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy.
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day.

MOTHER AND CHILD.


N. Barabino, a Living Italian Painter

CHINGS WORTH KNOWING

A soldier in the Philippines is reported to have been cured of stuttering by being shot through the throat.

It is estimated that the apple crop in the United State this year will amount to more than 36,000,000 barrels.

In West Bridgewater, Mass., recently the first church wedding in forty-four years took place in the Unitarian church.

In the west cloister of Westminster Abbey is a gravestone to John Broughton, once champion prize fighter of England.

A New Yorker, a youth in his teens, is reported to have sued a young woman of the same city, alleging breach of promise and asking $100,000 damages.

The Government of Victoria, Australia, has appropriated $25,000 for the making of roads by prisoners through the "bush" in unsettled parts of the State.

Pethick Lawrence, husband of one of the "suffragists" imprisoned in London, promised to subscribe £10 a day to the woman's suffrage fund for every day his wife remains in jail.

Denmark, famous for her great exportation of butter, has 600 cows to every 1000 of her inhabitants, and if five heads are counted as equally there are two and one-half cows to every family.

Up in Vermont they killed a burglar who had $1158 on his person, and after paying his burial expenses and erecting a monument to him, turned $63 and the twenty cents into the town treasury.

Major John S. Horlbeck, of Charleston, S. C., is said to own the largest bearing pecan orchard in the world. He has more than sixty acres in bearing trees and his main grove consists of 550 acres.

The neatest town in the world is Brock, in Holland. So tidy are the inhabitants that they will not allow horses in the streets. It contains a population of 2700, and the chief industry is the making of Edam cheese.

German firms are building very large steamships, which have been built of 2000 horse power for a mining company, and a number of 1500 horse power each, with gas engines and 1200 horse power gas dynamos are reported.

In Turkey there are 1500 schools in which children receive education. There are forty secondary schools having 3000 girls on their rolls. The learning of the children is comprised in and arithmetic, geography and elementary science are taught.

DISTRIBUTING CENTRES.

Cities From Which the Great Volume of Printed Matter Is Sent Out.

A striking example of the great volume of printed matter which the Postoffice Department is called upon to handle from month to month is found in a report recently issued by the department.

Of printed matter, designed for general circulation, 28,000,000 pounds were shipped in one month last year by publishers at the rate of a cent a pound at the 100 largest postoffices in the United States, the total number under the same of the mailing increased from 296,000,000 pounds in 1896 to 450,000,000 in 1906.

These shipments of printed matter, consisting of the classified transportation by the Postoffice Department, constitute a very fair guage of the distributing points of news and literature in the United States, and the relation which they bear to each other is peculiar and has little reference to that of population.

New York stands at the head with more than twenty-five per cent. of the whole shipments of the country, Chicago follows with about two-thirds of the shipments of New York. Then follow St. Louis, Philadelphia and Boston, in the order named, Boston's shipments seeming unduly low, and then Kansas City, Cincinnati and Augusta, Me., the shipments of Augusta seeming unduly high.

Minneapolis, San Francisco, Pittsburg, Detroit, St. Paul, Cleveland and Milwaukee follow, and all of them minor but populous cities—and then come Springfield, Ohio, and Elgin, Ill., two small places, Springfield being notable on account of its output of agricultural machinery, and Elgin on account of its manufacture of watches and its shipments of condensed milk.

Baltimore comes next, then Denver, Omaha, Des Moines, Atlanta, Lincoln, Nashville, Louisville, Indianapolis and Washington. Bangor, Me., exceeds Salt Lake City, and Lynn, Mass., exceeds New Orleans. Brooklyn has shipments little larger than those of Waterville, Me., and Rochester, N. Y.; Williamsport, Tex., and Memphis, Tenn., have about the same shipments.

Albany, N. Y., and Providence, R. I., are far down on the list. Newark, N. J., is still further down, and Charleston, S. C., ranks below Racine, Wis. It is estimated that it would take 25,000 postal cars to carry these second-class mail matter shipments.

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